

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1 1. A method of receiving regional media programs transmitted by regional
2 media providers, comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a signal in a receiver disposed in one of a plurality of local broadcast
4 regions within a national broadcast region, wherein the signal includes national media
5 programs intended for reception in the national broadcast region and regional media
6 programs intended for reception only in the local broadcast region;
7 determining the local broadcast region; and
8 providing only the regional media programs intended for reception in the
9 determined local broadcast region.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the national media programs are
2 transmitted by a satellite and a first set of the regional media programs are transmitted by
3 the satellite and a second set of the regional media programs are transmitted by a
4 terrestrial repeater.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing national
2 media programs.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting an
2 integrated electronic program guide (EPG) having the national media programs and only
3 the regional media programs intended for reception in the determined local broadcast
4 region.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of receiving electronic
2 program guide (EPG) information describing the national media programs and regional
3 media programs and associating each national media program and each regional media
4 program with a media channel.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 receiving information identifying regional media providers in the local broadcast
3 region.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the information identifies all regional
2 media providers in the national broadcast region .

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the received information is a table of
2 regional media providers.

1 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of receiving updated
2 information identifying regional media providers after the information identifying the
3 regional media providers changes.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the local broadcast
2 region (404) comprises the steps of:
3 determining a location of the receiver; and
4 determining the local broadcast region from the location of the receiver and
5 information stored in the receiver associating the location of the receiver with the local
6 broadcast region.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the location of the receiver is determined
2 with a global positioning (GPS) receiver.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the location is determined according to a
2 latitude and longitude, and the information stored in the receiver is a table relating the
3 latitude and longitude to the broadcast region.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the local broadcast
2 region comprises the steps of:
3 reading a local broadcast ID added to the regional media programs by a repeater;
4 and
5 determining the local broadcast area from the local broadcast ID.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the terrestrial repeater receives the signal
2 from a satellite and retransmits the signal having the local broadcast ID and the regional
3 media programs to the receiver.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the repeater temporarily stores the
2 regional programs intended for the region corresponding to its local broadcast ID and
3 then retransmits the stored regional programs.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the repeater scans metadata transmitted
2 with the signal to identify the regional media programs intended for reception in the local
3 broadcast region.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the repeater stores and retransmits the
2 regional media programs at a repetition rate.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein:
2 the signal broadcast from a satellite comprises regional media programs intended
3 for reception in a second local broadcast region; and
4 the repetition rate of the regional media programs is selected to utilize a repeater
5 transmission capacity that would otherwise have been used to transmit the regional media
6 programs intended for reception in the second local broadcast region.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the local broadcast
2 region comprises the steps of:
3 receiving information indicating the local broadcast region from the regional
4 media provider.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the information is received by a Radio
2 Broadcast Data System-compliant tuner module.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the information indicating the local
2 broadcast receiver comprises the identity of a regional media provider in the local
3 broadcast region, and the method further comprises the step of:
4 accessing information relating the identity of the regional media provider and the
5 local broadcast region.

1 22. A receiver for receiving regional media programs in one of a plurality of
2 local broadcast regions within a national broadcast region, comprising:
3 a first tuner module for receiving a first signal from a satellite, wherein the first
4 signal comprises national media programs intended for reception in the national broadcast
5 region and regional media programs intended for reception only in the local broadcast
6 region;
7 a second tuner module for receiving a second signal from a repeater serving the
8 local broadcast region, the second signal comprising a regional media program and a local
9 broadcast ID;
10 a location module, for determining the local broadcast region; and
11 a controller module, for providing only the regional media programs intended for
12 reception in the determined local broadcast region.

1 23. The receiver of claim 22, wherein:
2 the first signal further comprises electronic program guide (EPG) information; and
3 an EPG data module for generating an integrated EPG having the national media
4 programs and only the regional media programs intended for reception in the determined
5 broadcast region.

1 24. The receiver of claim 22, wherein the location module comprises:
2 a GPS receiver, for providing receiver position information; and
3 a memory, for storing information relating receiver position information with the
4 local broadcast region.

1 25. The receiver of claim 22, wherein the location module comprises:
2 a radio broadcast data system (RDBS) compliant tuner for receiving information
3 indicating the local broadcast information.

1 26. The receiver of claim 22, further comprising a user control to enable
2 reception of all regional media programs, including regional media programs not intended
3 for reception in the local broadcast region.

1 27. A terrestrial repeater, comprising:
2 a repeater receiver, disposable in one of a plurality of local broadcast regions
3 within a national broadcast region, the repeater receiver for receiving a signal including
4 national media programs intended for reception in the national broadcast region and
5 regional media programs intended for reception only in the local broadcast region;
6 a processor communicatively coupled to the repeater receiver, for adding a local
7 broadcast ID to the regional media programs; and
8 a repeater transmitter, communicatively coupled to the repeater receiver and the
9 processor, for transmitting the regional media programs and the local broadcast ID to
10 receivers disposed in the local broadcast region.

1 28. The terrestrial repeater of claim 27, wherein the repeater transmitter further
2 transmits national media programs to receivers disposed in the local broadcast region.

1 29. The terrestrial repeater of claim 27, wherein the processor further stores
2 and repeats regional media programs.

1 30. The terrestrial repeater of claim 27, wherein the processor further stores
2 and retransmits regional program guide information at a repetition rate.

1 31. The terrestrial repeater of claim 30, wherein:
2 the signal comprises media programs intended for reception in a second local
3 broadcast region; and
4 the repetition rate of the regional media programs is selected to utilize a repeater
5 transmission capacity that would otherwise have been used to transmit the regional media
6 programs intended for reception in the second local broadcast region.

1 32. A system for integrating presentation of national media programs and
2 regional media programs transmitted by regional media providers, comprising:
3 a satellite transmitter, for transmitting a first signal including a plurality of
4 national media programs and regional media programs; and
5 a terrestrial repeater, for receiving the first signal from the satellite transmitter and
6 for adding a local broadcast ID to the received regional media programs, and for
7 transmitting a second signal having the local broadcast ID and the national and regional
8 media programs to receivers in a local broadcast region

1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the first signal further comprises
2 electronic program guide (EPG) information, and receiver further comprises an EPG data
3 module for generating an integrated EPG having the national media programs and only
4 the regional media programs intended for reception in the determined broadcast region.

1 34. The system of claim 32, further comprising:
2 a receiver, disposed in the local broadcast region, the receiver comprising:
3 a tuner module for receiving the second signal from the terrestrial repeater,
4 a location module, for determining the local broadcast region; and
5 a controller module for providing only the regional media programs intended for
6 reception in the determined local broadcast region.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the location module comprises:
2 a global positioning system (GPS) receiver, for providing receiver position
3 information; and
4 a memory, for storing information relating receiver position information to the
5 local broadcast region.

1 36. The system of claim 34, wherein the location module comprises:
2 a radio broadcast data system (RDBS) compliant tuner for receiving information
3 indicating the local broadcast information.

1 37. The system of claim 32, wherein the terrestrial repeater stores and
2 retransmits the regional media programs at a repetition rate.

1 38. The system of claim 32, wherein:
2 the signal broadcast from a satellite comprises regional media programs intended
3 for reception in a second local broadcast region; and
4 the repetition rate of the regional media programs is selected to utilize a terrestrial
5 repeater transmission capacity that would otherwise have been used to transmit the
6 regional media programs intended for reception in the second local broadcast region.